

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES

RESOLUTION No. 181

A RESOLUTION relating to Proposed Policy Regarding Utilization of Public Aquatic Land for Residential (Houseboat) Use.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES THAT:

Section 1. The aquatic land management program serves the general public of the entire State. The program also recognizes the needs of special public interests such as ports, cities, commercial fisheries, boaters, naturalists and others.

Section 2. Ports and cities on navigable waters need space for wharves, docks and moorage, easements for rights-of-way, and access for the public to enjoy the marine environment.

Section 3. The recreationing public needs reasonable unobstructed use of the water surface, safe clean areas and proper habitat for regeneration and development of aquatic animal life.

Section 4. The navigable water areas of the State are absolute in dimension and constitute a highly desirable, limited resource for which there is intense competition between the various groups of the public for widely divergent and often incompatible uses.

Section 5. In consideration of the foregoing one of the greatest resource management problems is to represent the best long-term interest of the public, discharging the responsibilities of the State in resolving the competing use demands.

Section 6. House boats are considered to be a low priority use of publicly owned aquatic land.

1. They normally constitute single purpose land management.
2. They do not lend themselves to conversion to other uses.
3. They occupy the extremely valuable protected water areas with a non-water dependent use.
4. They produce little or no public benefit in proportion to the area covered, other than possibly revenue.
5. Except in urban areas they constitute a health hazard from sewage discharge and dumping of household chemicals or at best, the required sewage pumping systems are subject to mechanical and power failure.

NOW THEREFORE, Based upon the foregoing the following policy is hereby adopted by the Board of Natural Resources to be followed in the management of state owned aquatic lands by the Department of Natural Resources.

1. No additional publicly owned aquatic land will be made available for use as moorage of houseboats. Space will be allocated for this use on those sites where the practice has been legally established over a long period of time.
2. No houseboat moorage leases will be written for longer periods than 10 years.
3. No houseboat moorage will be leased or released without full compliance with Department of Ecology and Health Department requirements.
4. Suitable emergency power must be available to operate sewage pumps during periods of power outage.
5. Lease rates will be 7% of the full market price of the land involved.
6. The owners of all houseboats currently in trespass will be contacted and either evicted from the public land, or brought into full compliance with the law and the terms of this policy within 12 months.

Approved and adopted by the Board of Natural Resources, Department of Natural Resources, State of Washington, at its meeting in Olympia, Washington this 5th day of February, 1974.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Commissioner of Public Lands.

_____/S/_____
Bert L. Cole
Commissioner of Public Lands
Secretary, Board of Natural Resources

WAJ:nr
1/28/74

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